UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/745,978	12/22/2000	Mohanasundaram Chinnappan	020431.0753	8477

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EXAMINER
LUGO, CARLOS

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
3677	

DATE MAILED: 06/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/745,978	CHINNAPPAN ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Carlos Lugo	3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) _1-28_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) _1-28_ is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on _22 December 2000_ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☒ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

        1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _3-5_ .

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description:

    • Element 64 is not described in the specification.

2. The drawings are objected to because:

    • Add reference number 10 to Figure 4 (as disclosed in Page 17 Line 21).

    A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

3. The specification is objected to because of the following informalities:

    • Page 1 Lines 7-14, it is unclear to with applications are related the current application.

    • Page 7 Line 3, change "20" as --20abn--.

    • Page 7 Line 3, change "30" as --30abn--.

    • Page 8 Line 9, change "32" as --32abn--.

    • Page 19 Lines 5 and 6, it is unclear to with applications are related the current application.

    • Page 23 Line 4, change "buyer 30a" as --buyer 20a--.

    • Page 23 Line 4, change "buyer 30b" as --buyer 20b--.

- Page 25 Line 21, change "152" as --152a-n--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form

the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) The invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. **Claims 1-7,9-16,18-25,27 and 28 are rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being

anticipated by Ebay.com (Ebay).

Regarding claims 1,11 and 20, Ebay discloses a global content directory

comprising a directory structure (Categories Section) comprising a plurality of

product classes organized in a hierarchy (Antiques, books, Movies, etc).

Each product class categorizes a plurality of products and defines one or more

attributes of the products categorized in the product class (for example, if an user

choose the Sports category, sub categories will come out, for example baseball,

golf, etc.). Each product class is associated to a pointer identifying a seller database

(seller).

A search interface (Smart Search or Find It! blank) is operable to communicate a

search query for product data to one or more seller databases identified by the one

ore more pointers associated with the selected product class.

For example, if a buyer wants something related to "Roberto Clemente", the

buyer goes to categories and chooses the Sports category. Then, the buyer can

simply Type Down "Roberto Clemente" in the Smart Search or Find It! Blank to look for it in that category.

Then the buyer will be provided with a list of sellers selling things related to "Roberto Clemente" (See Pages 4-6).

As to claims 2,12 and 21, Ebay discloses the use of an access protocol (A protocol is a set of conventions governing the treatment and especially the formatting of data in an electronic communications system, therefore, in order to operate the search format, the website, in this case Ebay, must have an access protocol to operate).

As to claims 3,13 and 22, Ebay discloses that the directory structure is distributed between pluralities of computers (when different buyers and seller enter through the Internet).

As to claims 4,14 and 23, Ebay discloses the use of the Internet.

As to claim 5, Ebay illustrates that the global content directory further includes one or more additional directory structure (Pages 7 and 8; Browse Button, when a person press this button, the following alternatives appears: categories, regions, themes or stores).

As to claims 6,15 and 24, Ebay disclose the use of a structured query language. A query language provides a means of retrieving records or parts of records and performing various calculations before displaying the results. Therefore, when a person is searching for something in particular using Ebay, query language will

retrieve records or parts of records and performing various calculations before displaying the results.

As to claims 7,16 and 25, Ebay discloses that the search query includes one or more attributes of the class selected by the user.

For example, if a buyer wants something related to "Roberto Clemente", the buyer goes to categories and chooses the Sports category. Then, the buyer can simply Type Down "Roberto Clemente" in the Smart Search or Find It! Blank to look for it in that category.

As to claims 9,18 and 27, Ebay discloses that the search interface is operable to receive search results from one or more seller databases in response to the search query.

For example, if a buyer wants something related to "Roberto Clemente", the buyer can simply Type Down "Roberto Clemente" in the Smart Search or Find It! Blank and the buyer will get different products related to the search term (example Roberto Clemente) from different sellers.

As to claims 10,14 and 28, Ebay discloses that the directory receives a selection from the user of a product data from the search and in response the user will get information of the seller and the product (See the description of the product).

6. **Claims 1-7,9-16,18-25,27 and 28 are rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Amazon.com (Amazon).

Regarding claims 1,11 and 20, Amazon discloses a global content directory comprising a directory structure (Page 1 at the top and at the left side) comprising a plurality of product classes organized in a hierarchy (Books, Movies, etc).

Each product class categorizes a plurality of products and defines one or more attributes of the products categorized in the product class (Page 3, for example, if an user choose the Electronics category, sub categories will come out, for example Audio & Video, Computers, etc.). Each product class is associated to a pointer identifying a seller database (seller).

A search interface (Page 3, either search within the website (Amazon) or a web search Web) is operable to communicate a search query for product data to one or more seller databases identified by the one ore more pointers associated with the selected product class.

For example, if a buyer wants something related to "DVD Players", the buyer goes to categories and chooses the Electronics category. Then, the buyer can simply Type Down "DVD" in the Search Blank to look for it in that category or all the products.

Then the buyer will be provided with a list of sellers selling things related to "DVD" (See Pages 4-6).

As to claims 2,12 and 21, Amazon discloses the use of an access protocol (A protocol is a set of conventions governing the treatment and especially the formatting of data in an electronic communications system, therefore, in order to

operate the search format, the website, in this case Amazon, must have an access protocol to operate).

As to claims 3,13 and 22, Amazon discloses that the directory structure is distributed between pluralities of computers (when different buyers and seller enter through the Internet).

As to claims 4,14 and 23, Amazon discloses the use of the Internet.

As to claim 5, Amazon illustrates that the global content directory further includes one or more additional directory structure (Page 3, at the top or at the left side).

As to claims 6,15 and 24, Amazon discloses the use of a structured query language. A query language provides a means of retrieving records or parts of records and performing various calculations before displaying the results. Therefore, when a person is searching for something in particular using Amazon, query language will retrieve records or parts of records and performing various calculations before displaying the results.

As to claims 7,16 and 25, Amazon discloses that the search query includes one or more attributes of the class selected by the user.

For example, if a buyer wants something related to "DVD", the buyer goes to categories and chooses the Electronics category. Then, the buyer can simply Type Down "DVD" in the Search Blank to look for it in that category.

As to claims 9,18 and 27, Amazon discloses that the search interface is operable to receive search results from one or more seller databases in response to the search query.

For example, if a buyer wants something related to "DVD", the buyer can simply Type Down "DVD" in the Search Blank and the buyer will get different products related to the search term (example DVD) from different sellers.

As to claims 10,14 and 28, DVD discloses that the directory receives a selection from the user of a product data from the search and in response the user will get information of the seller and the product (Pages 5 and 6).

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) The invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

8. **Claims 1-28 are rejected** under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by US Pat No 6,366,910 to Rajaraman et al (Rajaraman).

Regarding claims 1,11 and 20, Rajaraman discloses a global content directory (GPS) comprising a directory structure (202) comprising a plurality of product classes organized in a hierarchy (Col. 2 Lines 57-61).

Each product class categorizes a plurality of products and defines one or more attributes of the products categorized in the product class (Col. 2 Lines 61-65, for example, if an user is locking for clothes, sub categories will come out, for example shoes, shirts, etc.). Each product class is associated to a pointer identifying a seller database (seller).

A search interface (207) is operable to communicate a search query for product data to one or more seller databases that is identified by the one or more pointers associated with the selected product class.

As to claims 2,12 and 21, Rajaraman discloses the use of an access protocol (A protocol is a set of conventions governing the treatment and especially the formatting of data in an electronic communications system, therefore, in order to operate the search format, the website, must have an access protocol to operate).

As to claims 3,13 and 22, Rajaraman discloses that the directory structure is distributed between pluralities of computers (when different buyers and seller enter through the Internet).

As to claims 4,14 and 23, Rajaraman discloses the use of the Internet.

As to claim 5, Rajaraman illustrates that the global content directory further includes one or more additional directory structure (Figures 1a and 1b).

As to claims 6,15 and 24, Rajaraman disclose the use of a structured query language. A query language provides a means of retrieving records or parts of records and performing various calculations before displaying the results. Therefore, when a person is searching for something in particular, query language will retrieve

records or parts of records and performing various calculations before displaying the
results.

As to claims 7,16 and 25, Rajaraman discloses that the search query includes
one or more attributes of the class selected by the user.

As to claims 8,17 and 26, Rajaraman illustrates that the search query includes
values for one or more desired products features specified by the user (Figure 4).

As to claims 9,18 and 27, Rajaraman discloses that the search interface is
operable to receive search results from one or more seller databases in response to
the search query (the buyer will get different products related to the search term (for
example: clothes) from different sellers).

As to claims 10,14 and 28, Rajaraman discloses that the directory receives a
selection from the user of a product data from the search and in response the user
will get information of the seller and the product.

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to
applicant's disclosure. The patents cited further show the state of the art with respect
to global directories.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
examiner should be directed to Carlos Lugo. The examiner phone number is (703)-
305-9747. The fax number for correspondence before a final action is (703)-872-
9326 and the fax number for correspondence after final action is (703)-872-9327.
The email direction of the examiner is carlos.lugo@uspto.gov. The examiner can

normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 9:30am to 6:30pm (EST). If the

examiner is not available, please leave a message, including the application number

and the examiner will answer the message as soon as possible.

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June 2, 2003

J. J. SWANN
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